

ld. Sandwich

Fortescue 3367

x 4257

Admiralty July 7th 1781

~~Lord Sandwich to the King~~
Lord Sandwich is sorry to be obliged to apprise your Majesty that you will find by the enclosed papers that the new pilots do not come up to what they seemed to promise before they left London.

Under the circumstances on which the matter now stands, it seems impossible for this office to give positive orders to pursue the undertaking, as it would be highly criminal, in case the expedition failed, to have given such orders after the examination of the Pilots, who all declare that the ships cannot get out without a fair wind.

The utmost that Lord Sandwich thinks can be done in this state of things, is to send the orders to L^d Mulgrave this night, if they meet with your Majesty's approbation, which will be found herewith; your Majesty will observe that if the

Sea Officers think the scheme practicable they are at liberty to undertake it, if they are of opinion that it is impracticable and should have positive orders to go on; they would be the first to complain of the impropriety of those orders, which would be reprobated by the whole navy, & indeed by all mankind.

While Lord Sandwich is writing he has the satisfaction to hear of Admiral Darty's safe arrival off Sicily which takes a great burthen from off his mind, as there is reason to believe that the French are at sea with double his force; we shall now reinforce him without delay or danger.

Your Majesty will have the goodness to return this box as soon as convenient, as L^d Mulgrave's Lieutenant cannot be dispatched till we know whether the intended orders are honoured with your Majesty's approbation.